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United Nations Forum on Forests
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair and such other officers as may be required (see E/5975/Rev.1). In accordance with Council resolution 2000/35, by which the Forum was established, the Bureau of the Forum shall consist of a Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall also act as Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. By its decision 2007/273, the Council decided that, commencing with the eighth session of the Forum, officers elected to the Bureau shall hold office for a term of two years.

At the first meeting of its eleventh session, on 19 April 2013, the Forum elected Mr. Macharia Kamau (Kenya), Mr. Srećko Juričić (Croatia) and Mr. Heikki Granholm (Finland) as members of the Bureau for its eleventh session. At the same meeting, the Forum decided to postpone the election of the other members of the Bureau. Subsequently, the secretariat received the nominations of Mr. Wu Zhimin (China) and Mr. Raphael Azeredo (Brazil). The secretariat also received the nominations of Mr. Noel Messone (Gabon), to replace Mr. Kamau, and Mr. Vicente Bezerra (Brazil), to replace Mr. Azeredo (Brazil). The Forum is expected to elect the remaining members of the Bureau at the second meeting of its eleventh session, to be held on 4 May 2015, as well as designate the Chair and the Rapporteur of the eleventh session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt the agenda and organization of work for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.18/2015/1)

3. Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015, at its eleventh session the Forum is to consider the overall theme "Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests" (see Forum resolution 7/1), as well as the following three subthemes: reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options; reviewing the progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests; and reviewing the contribution of forests and the international arrangement on forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, to the internationally agreed development goals.

(a) Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options

Economic and Social Council resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49 and Forum resolutions 7/1 and 10/2 provide the framework for reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and for making a decision on the future of the international arrangement on forests at the eleventh session of the Forum, in May 2015. At its tenth session, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 8 to 19 April 2013, the Forum adopted its resolution 10/2, in which it decided to undertake several intersessional activities in preparation for the eleventh session to review the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and to make a decision on its future. In particular, it decided that the review should include three components: submissions by Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the arrangement; an independent assessment of the arrangement; and an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on the arrangement. At its first meeting, held in Nairobi from 24 to 28 February 2014, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests established by the Forum in its resolution 10/2 reviewed and discussed the strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement of the arrangement and provided some suggestions for its future, after 2015. At its second meeting, held in New York from 12 to 16 January 2015, the Expert Group reviewed and considered all inputs, including the report on the independent assessment of the arrangement, and discussed actions and options for its future. The report on the second meeting of the Expert Group includes a summary and a set of recommendations by the Co-Chairs on the function and institutional arrangements of the arrangement for the period beyond 2015. Consistent with other documents prepared for the eleventh session, and taking into account the report on the second meeting of the Expert Group, the report of the Secretary-General to be considered under agenda item 3 (a) contains conclusions and recommendations on key components of the international arrangement on forests after 2015. It also highlights some key areas that could be used as a basis for discussion by senior government officials during the high-level segment to be held at the eleventh session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options (E/CN.18/2015/2)

Report on the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests (E/CN.18/2015/10)

Report on the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests (E/CN.18/2015/11)

(b) Reviewing the progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

The General Assembly, by its resolution 62/98, adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015, at its eleventh session the Forum will focus, inter alia, on reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on

forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as one of the themes and also as one of the common agenda items.

In paragraph 12 (b) of its resolution 10/1, the Forum requested its secretariat to further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting at its eleventh session. The secretariat, in collaboration with the organizations members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and in close consultation with countries, has revised and streamlined the reporting format used by Member States to report to the Forum at its eleventh session. The overall assessment presented in the report of the Secretary-General to be considered under agenda item 3 (b) is based on those national reports, taking into account also of previous national reports, submitted at the eighth, ninth and tenth sessions of the Forum.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/2015/3)

(c) Reviewing the contribution of forests and the international arrangement on forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, to the internationally agreed development goals

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015, at its eleventh session the Forum should review the contribution of forests and the international arrangement on forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, to the internationally agreed development goals. The report of the Secretary-General to be considered under agenda item 3 (a) serves as the basis for the discussions of the Forum on agenda items 3 (a) and (c) owing to the interlinkages between the two sub-items.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options (E/CN.18/2015/2)

4. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015, the means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels are recurring cross-cutting issues to be considered at each session. The Forum considered the issue of the means of implementation for sustainable forest management as a specific agenda item at its eighth session. Furthermore, in the resolution it adopted at the special session of its ninth session, held on 30 October 2009, the Forum established the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (see E/2009/118, chap. I.B). In the same resolution, the Forum decided to establish a facilitative process and to carry out a series of intersessional activities as part of that process, and also agreed to consider, during its tenth session, the recommendations on forest financing submitted to it by the Expert Group, taking into account the results of the intersessional work. Accordingly, the reports on the work of the Expert Group and on the facilitative process that were issued from 2009 to 2013, as well as

other inputs, were submitted to the Forum at its ninth and tenth sessions. After having reviewed those inputs, the Forum, at its tenth session, adopted resolution 10/2, wherein it agreed on a series of actions at the national, regional and international levels on forest financing. In paragraph 32 of that resolution, the Forum decided to consider, as an integral element of the overall review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, as outlined in resolution 10/2 and its annex, a full range of financing options and strategies, including the establishment of a voluntary global forest fund, in order to mobilize resources from all sources in support of sustainable forest management for all types of forests and trees outside forests.

The report of the Secretary-General to be considered under agenda item 4 contains information about major developments regarding the means of implementation for sustainable forest management, including on the facilitative process, as well as forest law enforcement and governance at all levels.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels (E/CN.18/2015/4)

5. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

The Forum, at its first session, in 2001, decided to develop and facilitate coordination and cooperation on various forest-related issues with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments. The report of the Secretary-General and the information document to be considered under agenda item 5 contain information about major activities relating to enhancing cooperation and policy and programme coordination on forests, as well as to the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in support of the Forum since its tenth session. The report of the Secretary-General also contains information about Member States' direct contribution to the work of the Forum through, inter alia, the organization of country-led initiatives, the financing of relevant projects and the organization of activities to mark the International Day of Forests.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation, policy and programme coordination and regional and subregional inputs (E/CN.18/2015/5)

Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2013 and 2014 (E/CN.18/2015/7)

6. Regional and subregional inputs

In paragraph 2 (c) of its resolution 2006/49, the Economic and Social Council assigned to the Forum several new principal functions, one of which was to strengthen interaction between the Forum and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and

processes, to facilitate enhanced cooperation and the effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum. In paragraph 11 of the same resolution, the Council invited forest-related regional and subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes to strengthen their collaboration with and to provide input to the work of the Forum.

The report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation, policy and programme coordination and regional and subregional inputs has been submitted for consideration under agenda items 5 and 6. It contains inputs from regional and subregional organizations and processes and serves as the basis for discussions under both agenda items.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation, policy and programme coordination and regional and subregional inputs (E/CN.18/2015/5)

7. Multi-stakeholder dialogue

The Forum considers the participation of a wide range of forest-related stakeholders to be a key component of sustainable forest management and has incorporated multi-stakeholder dialogues involving the nine major groups identified in Agenda 21 in its multi-year programme of work. At each session since its second session, held in 2002, the Forum has organized multi-stakeholder dialogues, which have provided platforms for the exchange of ideas and information between Member States, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and major groups on the work of the Forum. The secretariat maintains contact and holds frequent consultations with the focal points of major groups on the planning of the multi-stakeholder dialogues. The multi-stakeholder dialogue of the eleventh session will focus on seeking multi-stakeholder perspectives on the overall theme and the subthemes of the session. The discussion paper submitted jointly by various major groups contains the views of major groups on the future of the international arrangement on forests and, in particular, on ways and means to enhance the involvement of major groups in the future work of the arrangement.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2015/6)

Discussion paper submitted by the major groups on the future of the international arrangement on forests (E/CN.18/2015/6/Add.1)

8. High-level segment

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015, the Forum is to hold a high-level ministerial segment during its eleventh session to decide on the future of the international arrangement on forests. Such a segment, which would coincide with the efforts of the international community on the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, would provide a unique opportunity for senior government officials to share their vision on the integration of forests into the broader development agenda and to express their solid commitment on a strong international arrangement on forests for the period beyond 2015. In this regard, the Bureau of the Forum at its eleventh session has

recommended that the high-level segment be held on 13 and 14 May 2015 with the objective of adopting a ministerial declaration.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options (E/CN.18/2015/2)

Report on the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests (E/CN.18/2015/10)

Report on the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests (E/CN.18/2015/11)

9. Forum Trust Fund

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015, the secretariat is to report at each session on the operation of the Forum Trust Fund, including on the amount and source of contributions and a description of how funds have been expended.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the Forum Trust Fund (E/CN.18/2015/8)

10. Other matters

The Forum may wish to consider any matters raised for discussion under this item.

11. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its eleventh session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its session.